

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Fiscal Year 2007

The Design Review Board held 10 meetings during FY 07. This was down somewhat from previous years and was due to both a slow-down in the overall number of downtown private development projects and the fact that the Board was at low strength (three members out of an intended total of five) throughout the fiscal year and at times had difficulty in achieving a quorum.

Public Projects Reviewed

Pomeroy Village Streetscape – A public forum was held on July 26, 2006 at the Munson Memorial Building to show 3-D computer graphics of generalized proposed streetscape improvements in Pomeroy Village. One outcome of the ensuing public discussion was a consensus that the original historic village center at the South Amherst Common (with its school, church, and library/public building) and the new commercial center at Pomeroy Village needed to be much better connected via pedestrian walkways, so that the two areas – one social and cultural, and the other commercial – could function as a single village center.

Downtown Streetscape Improvements (Kellogg Avenue to Carriage Shops) – The DRB reviewed and approved designs for streetscape improvements in this stretch of downtown sidewalk.

Atkins Corner Intersection Realignment – The DRB reviewed designs for realigning the intersections of Bay Road and West Bay Road with West Street (Rte. 116).

Private (Downtown) Projects Reviewed

The redevelopment and improvement of downtown buildings and sites continued. A number of significant projects under construction in FY 07 had been reviewed in FY 06. The following projects and signs were reviewed in FY 07:

Projects – Bank of Western Massachusetts renovations, A.J. Hastings Block façade improvements, Bank of America ATM kiosk (East Pleasant/Triangle), La Piazza (former Pinocchio's) renovations, Food for Thought Books, and Souper Bowl renovations.

Signs – Maharishi Enlightenment Center; Hampshire Mosque; Subway; PHO Noodle Shop; Bulkeley, Richardson & Gelinas; The Art of Basketball; King's Tailoring Shop, The Refinery (hair salon).

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Design Review Board